



*Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging:
Agency on Aging of South Central CT
North Central Area Agency on Aging
Western CT Area Agency on Aging
Senior Resources - Agency on Aging Eastern CT
Southwestern CT Agency on Aging*

www.ctagenciesonaging.org

To: Honorable Senator Paul Formica, Co-chairperson, Honorable Senator Catherine Osten, Co-chairperson, Honorable Representative Toni Walker, Co-chairperson, and Members of the Appropriations Committee

DT: Submitted February 16, 2017

RE: HB 7040 Governor's Budget proposal

Elimination of the Centers for Independent Living (CIL's) from the Governor's Budget

On behalf of the CT Association of Area Agencies on Aging, I ask that the committee strongly consider the wisdom of any proposal that increases the probability of nursing facility admissions, adds to the ranks of "safety net" consumers, perpetuates chronic underemployment, and prevents successful community living for individuals with disabilities. Removing the state funding for Connecticut's five Centers for Independent Living the Governor's budget does exactly that. The CILs serve all disabilities and all ages as well as family members of people with disabilities. The state currently funds five CIL's for \$202,005 or \$40,401.00 per CIL. The five CILs ensure that these programs and services are available statewide and are implemented with a knowledge and sensitivity for regional diversity. In the past fiscal year alone, the five CILs saved the state approximately \$10.3 million through preventing nursing home admission, securing employment, and ensuring community support and integration.

The Centers for Independent Living are integral partners to many of the state's current Medicaid Rebalancing Efforts including the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. Furthermore, the CILs have provided the peer support and skills training necessary for the long-term success of individuals transitioned under MFP. The Centers are founding partners in the statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center movement and by their presence ensure full cooperation and collaboration of agencies and programs across the lifespan. One would be not be wrong to question Connecticut's commitment to the concepts of *Aging in Place*, *Livable Communities*, and *Medicaid Rebalancing* if the Centers for Independent Living are completely eliminated from the state's budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen C. McIntyre, Executive Director
North Central Area Agency on Aging

